
EXPERIMENTS ON PHASE AUDIBILITY

SEVERAL readers have asked for further clarification of two points in my article on phase audibility (October 1977 issue, pp. 79-81). I would therefore like to add a few comments to the record, as follows.

Question: Were the Bose 901 loudspeaker tests done "up close", and were they "blind"?

Answer: The single Bose speaker, and also the crossed-over pair of Bose speakers, were compared with the live performance "up close", that is, at a distance of ten feet from the listening jury. The tests were run blind, through a lit-up gauze curtain. Listeners could not be fooled at this distance, but a rank ordering of quality (best, equal, worst) was attempted. The essentially phase-coherent playback was not any more like the live performance than was the phase-distorted playback.

When the tests were run indoors, in a typical household environment, the Bose speakers were able to fool listeners at a distance of 35 feet (through a large, open doorway), but not any closer. The Magnepan speakers fooled the listeners at 25 feet indoors and 15 feet outdoors, but not at ten feet.

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Editor's note: The following corrections should be made to Dr Shanefield's article. On page 79, middle column, the final six lines of the column should have been printed before